

June, 1976

ONTARIO ATTORNEY GENERAL LAW LIBRARY
KF 545 O54 STK
A report to the Honourable James A. Taylor



00000659

Report Committee on Record Disclosure to Adoptees

KF
545
O54



Ministry of
Community and
Social Services

Honourable James Taylor, Q.C.
Minister
Miss D. Crittenden
Deputy Minister



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2017 with funding from
Ontario Council of University Libraries

https://archive.org/details/mag_00000659

Committee on Record Disclosure to Adoptees

A report to the Honourable James A. Taylor, Q.C.,
Minister of Community and Social Services

KF 545 054
Ontario. Committee on Record
A report to the Honourable
James A. Taylor, Q.C., Minis

ISSUED TO

A-11046

KF 545 054
Ontario. Committee on Record
A report to the Honourable
James A. Taylor, Q.C., Minis

nd

losure

June 22, 1976
Toronto, Ontario

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
The Committee	
I. Introduction	1
II. Attitudes, Rights and Issues	2
III. Research, Professional Opinion and Other Jurisdictions	7
IV. Current Situation in Ontario	12
V. Possible Alternatives	13
VI. Policy Recommendations	18
VII. Summary	25
VIII. Addenda	27
1) Dissenting Opinion by Nicholas Cannon	
2) Adoptee's Background Information Form	

THE COMMITTEE

Victoria Leach, Chairman	Adoption Coordinator, Child Welfare Branch, Ministry of Community and Social Services.
Steven A. Raiken, Secretary	MSW Candidate, Faculty of Social Work, University of Toronto. Also, Ministry summer staff.
Helen Allen	Journalist and author of "Today's Child," syndicated throughout the Province. Ministry staff, Communications Branch.
Helen Ball	Former President of the Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies and an adoptive parent.
Mira S. Blake	MSW, Adoption Unit, Children's Aid Society of Durham Region and Field Work Supervisor, York University.
Nicholas Cannon	Adoptive parent who presented a brief on behalf of adoptive parents to the Prime Minister and the Cabinet in Welland in December, 1975.
Valentin J. Cruz	Professor of Social Work at the University of Windsor, an adoptive parent and Consultant to the Committee.
Lee Ferrier	Barrister, former Board Member and former group home father for foster children with the Children's Aid Society of Metropolitan Toronto.
Greg P. Johnstone	Barrister, and both an adoptee and an adoptive parent.
Pat Richardson	Charter member and Director of Parent Finders, Ontario and an adoptee.
Ann Lorraine Thiessen	MSW, Adoption and Child Care Supervisor at the Children's Aid Society, Regional Municipality of Halton.
Jan Thompson	Social Worker and Adoption Supervisor at the Children's Aid Society of Metropolitan Toronto.

I. INTRODUCTION

A controversy has arisen recently over an issue that was once a private source of concern for members of the "adoption triangle" - the adoptee, his adoptive parents and his biological family. A small, but increasing number of adoptees are actively pursuing more information about or personal contact with their biological families. This search for origins and access to records elicits highly variable responses from members of the adoption triangle, adoption agencies, concerned mental health professionals, the courts and various governments. In Ontario, recent newspaper articles and statements of policy by a Children's Aid Society have added to the controversy.

As a result, the Minister of Community and Social Services, the Hon. James A. Taylor, Q.C., formed a Committee in January, 1976, to study the issues, review present policies and recommend a province-wide policy on this matter. The Committee has held numerous meetings, conducted an extensive review of the literature and solicited briefs from concerned groups, professional associations and provincial and state governments. The Committee has also held open, public forums on this issue in Toronto, Belleville, St. Catharines, London and Sudbury. (Copies of the selected publications, briefs and summaries of the public forums are available from the Chairman.) In order to focus our deliberations and the responses of various concerned individuals and groups, the following questions were posed:

- 1) Should adoptees have access to non-identifying information on biological family? At what age and under what circumstances and conditions should such information be made available?
- 2) Should adoptees have access to identifying information on biological family? At what age, and under what circumstances and conditions should such information be made available?
- 3) Should biological parents have access to information on the status and/or whereabouts of their relinquished children? If so, under what circumstances and conditions?

2...

- 4) If access to records is given, how should this be done and by whom?
- 5) Are there any other suggestions or comments you have relevant to this Committee's task?

The Committee was also concerned with clarification of Section 80(1) of The Child Welfare Act; standardization of record storage procedures in Children's Aid Societies; and the development of uniform personal, social and medical history taking, essential to the adoption process.

The format of this Report shall be to describe the conflicting attitudes and rights of the parties involved and the issues arising out of that conflict; to review the available research, professional opinion and input from other jurisdictions; and to assess the current situation in Ontario. We will then summarize the possible alternatives and present the Committee's policy recommendations. There is also a summary and an addenda which includes a dissenting opinion by one Committee member and a proposed new form.

II. ATTITUDES, RIGHTS AND ISSUES

The original impetus for this present debate came over twenty years ago from Jean M. Paton, an adopted social worker who searched for and found her mother when she was 47 and her mother 69. Her book, The Adopted Break Silence (Philadelphia: Life History Center, 1954), is the account of forty men and women who searched for their biological parents. She has been in the forefront of the adoptee activist movement in the United States through her writings and her organization, Orphan Voyage. Paton feels very strongly that adoptees need to know of their genealogical roots and has set up a reunion file to assist those persons seeking information or a reunion.

Another activist group in the U.S. is the Adoptees' Liberty Movement Association (ALMA), led by Florence L. Fisher. Her search for her biological parents culminated in a book, The Search for Anne Fisher (New York: Arthur Fields, 1973), which has received some

attention in the press. ALMA has attempted to unseal the adoptee's birth records through a class action civil rights suit being heard in the New York State Federal Courts. Adoptees are claiming the right to access to records under certain clauses in the U.S. Constitution. Cases by similar adoptee groups are being heard in other states.

In Canada, the adoptee activist movement is led by Parent Finders, with branches in Vancouver and Toronto. Browndale (Ontario) has also been active in assisting some of its adopted clients to seek information about their biological parents.

Less attention is given in the mass media and professional literature to adoptive parent organizations and to the attitudes of biological parents who have relinquished their children. Various studies have referred to adoptive parents' groups such as the Organization to Save the Adoptive Family (Vancouver), Canadopt, Parents Concerned and the Open Door Society. The research studies noted below describe the attitudes of adoptive parents as ranging from a complete rejection of the goals of the adoptee activist movement to a cautious endorsement of their efforts. The research and the media find that biological parents who are seeking information about their relinquished children tend to align themselves in similar attitude patterns to the activist adoptees. There is a concern, however, that those members of the adoption triangle who wish to maintain their anonymity and privacy may have attitudes dissimilar to those expressed by other individuals.

The Committee, in an effort to tap public opinion on this complex issue, held five open forums in different communities in Ontario. It was felt that these forums, in addition to the written briefs solicited from concerned groups, professional associations and other governments, would give the Committee the most complete information on which to base its policy recommendations. Each forum was designed so that the entire Committee or its selected representatives could engage in a discussion with the public, based on the specific questions posed in the Introduction to this Report. The general makeup of the audience and nature of the responses to the questions were

quite similar from location to location. There were usually more adoptive parents than adoptees present and very few biological parents (who had relinquished their children). It can be generally stated that the range of opinion was very broad, with no one group (adoptive parents, adoptees or biological parents) representing only one point of view. There was much overlapping in concerns, attitudes and suggested alternatives to the present situation. Adoptive parents tended toward a more conservative stance, defending the confidentiality guaranteed them and the biological parents at the time of adoption placement and their right to share information with their adoptive children at the appropriate time. Many adoptive parents recognized the needs of adoptees to know their genealogical background, but no consensus was apparent with regard to the amount or kind of information that should be given. The adoptees present tended toward a more liberal position of advocating access to non-identifying information at a specific age and some mechanism for adult adoptees to effect contact with their biological families. Many adoptees who advocated a liberal position also expressed their respect and strong feelings of devotion to their adoptive parents. Neither adoptees nor adoptive parents were favorably disposed to allowing access to identifying information for biological parents or minor adoptees, although most felt that biological parents should be given non-identifying information on the status and well-being of their relinquished children. The few biological parents present expressed a desire to know what had happened to their relinquished children, but most favored waiting for the adoptee to make the initial contact.

There was much debate on the proper age at which non-identifying and/or identifying information should be available to the adoptee without adoptive parental consent. The ages of 18, 21 and 25 or when the adoptee reaches maturity were commonly mentioned. There was also no consensus as to whether the adoptee's dependence on his adoptive parents should be a factor. Some adoptive parents felt that their consent should be necessary before any information could be given to the adoptee, regardless of his age. Other individuals felt that

5...

adoptees have an unconditional right to all information at a certain specific age and should not be bound by an agreement made by the other two parties in the adoption triangle at the time of placement.

The issue of release of identifying information to adoptees provided the most controversy. A frequently mentioned compromise position that seemed acceptable to many members of the audience was a registry system for adult adoptees and biological parents. In a registry system, both parties could register their wishes to share updated information or to make personal contact. The specific operation of this system raised many questions for the Committee and the audience. Should the system merely match up mutual requests from the parties involved or should a professional "mediator" make discreet inquiries of one party on behalf of the other? Should this mediator make these inquiries for biological parents as well as adoptees? What effect would these reunions or the mere approach of a mediator have on the lives of the members of the adoption triangle? Should adult adoptees who have contact with minor biological siblings still in an adoption home be allowed to use the registry and/or request the services of the mediator?

The Committee was very impressed with the courage and candor demonstrated by those members of the audience who shared with us very personal and often painful feelings. Our deliberations in the closed meetings we have held were influenced strongly by the concerns and feelings expressed. The Committee recognizes the rights of all the parties involved and the forums strengthened our resolve to try to serve the best interests of all parties. The rights of an individual are not absolute but must be carefully circumscribed in relation to the rights of others.

Other issues arose both in the Committee's deliberations and at the forums. The distinction between identifying and non-identifying information becomes quite difficult to make in certain situations and locations. Besides obvious facts such as the biological parents' names and last known addresses, certain details such as the specific job title of a biological parent, could be considered identifying. Particularly in smaller communities, many details might be useful in completing the adoptee's identity structure but could also conceivably

be helpful in seeking out the biological family. The written submissions to the Committee from other provinces and the comments of a few adoption social workers at the forums also demonstrated a tendency at certain agencies to censor undesirable or "negative" pieces of non-identifying information when describing the biological family to either the adoptive parents or the adult adoptee. Such details as a history of criminal behavior or the knowledge of an incestuous union producing the adoptee might be deleted in a desire to protect the adoptee or his adoptive parents.

There also seems to be much misunderstanding on the intention and meaning of Section 80(1) of The Child Welfare Act which states,

The papers used upon an application for an adoption order shall be sealed up and filed in the office of the court by the proper officer of the court and shall not be open for inspection except upon an order of the court or the written direction of the Director (of Child Welfare).

The definition of the phrase, "papers used upon an application for an adoption order," is not clear. The Committee notes that these papers include the application to adopt, the required consents, the progress report of the Children's Aid Society, the child's original birth certificate and a copy of the adoption order. Copies of some of these documents and other papers completed at the time of the adoption placement, however, are on file at Children's Aid Societies and in the locked files of the Child Welfare Branch of the Ministry. Some adoptive parents expressed concern about having their personal records retained at certain local agencies, where it is felt that there may be a much too casual approach toward storage and safe-keeping. These records, including the aforementioned copies of legal documents, could be obtained by people other than those directly concerned with service given to the applicants or their children. Although the idea of having all adoption records sent to a provincial office for safekeeping might appear to be a simple solution, there would be a problem with providing the continuing service often requested by adoptive families.

7...

Also referring to Section 80(1), a question was often raised as to whether there was a legal precedent in Ontario with respect to the disclosure of records to an adoptee. In view of efforts of adoptee activist groups in other jurisdictions, the Committee wished to seek an opinion on the legal background of the record disclosure issue in Ontario.

Thus we have a basic conflict of rights and needs in this issue. Does an adoptee's right to know his genealogical heritage supercede the guarantee of confidentiality given the adoptive and biological parents at the time of placement? Do the possible benefits of a reunion for an adoptee and the biological parents warrant the risk of psychological and emotional damage to the members of the adoption triangle? These problems, plus the additional definitional and legal questions, were central to the Committee's deliberations and study.

III. RESEARCH, PROFESSIONAL OPINION AND OTHER JURISDICTIONS

The Committee endeavored to review the relevant research literature and to seek written briefs from concerned groups, professional associations and other governments. Let us first consider the available research.

The most authoritative work in the field is being produced by a team of researchers in Los Angeles: psychiatrist Arthur D. Sorosky and two experienced adoption social workers, Annette Baran and Reuben Pannor. Their approach was to study an initial group of 11 and then a second group of 50 actual reunions between adoptees and biological parents. They conclude that,

It would appear that adoptees feel a greater lack of biological connection and continuity than has been heretofore accepted. These feelings of genealogical bewilderment cannot be discounted as occurring only in maladjusted or emotionally disturbed individuals....

The reunion between adoptee and birth parent is a very emotional, potentially traumatic experience for all members of the adoption triangle: the adoptee, the birth parents, and the adoptive parents. For the adoptee, it may be the only means of satisfying preoccupying questions and concerns. The reunion may result in a closure of existing gaps in the adoptee's identity structure....

Although we view the adoption reunion as a highly explosive experience, our findings would not indicate that it is necessarily traumatic or destructive to either the adoptee or birth parent. Furthermore, the reunion does not appear to have had any serious effect on the existing relationship between the adoptee and adopting parent in most of the cases studied. (Sorosky et al., "The Reunion of Adoptees and Birth Relatives," Journal of Youth and Adolescence 3:3, 1974, p.205.)

They recommend, based on their studies, that,

- . Openness and honesty should replace the secrecy and anonymity that are part of the present procedures.
- . Original birth records should be unsealed for all adult adoptees; background and identifying information should be made available.
- . Appropriate boards should be established to aid any adult adoptees or biological parents who wish to meet.
- . Adoption agencies should reinstitute and maintain contact with all parties in the adoption triangle for as long as necessary, providing current information on all parties to any adult member of the triangle who requests it.
- . Adoption should be regarded as a lifelong process, and family counselling should be available over the life span.
(Baran et al., "Secret Adoption Records: The Dilemma of Our Adoptees," Psychology Today 9:7, December, 1975, p. 98.)

9...

Another significant piece of research was produced by Dr. John Triseliotis. Triseliotis interviewed a sample of 70 adoptees who applied or called at Register House in Edinburgh, Scotland, asking to be supplied with information from their original birth entries. (Adoptees over 17 in Scotland may receive a copy of their original birth entry which contains the adoptee's original surname and his parents' given name and therefore could lead to contact with the biological parents.) His work tends to support the findings of Sorosky et al. Triseliotis states that, of the adoptees who met the biological parents and of those who merely received background information, 80 percent were helped in some way, regardless of the outcome. The rest were either unsure or felt that it was no help and wished they had not attempted their search. The results of the Triseliotis study (In Search of Their Origins, London and Boston: Routledge and Kegan Paul, 1973) were the basis of the final report of the (U.K.) Department Committee on the Adoption of Children, published in 1972. The Committee recommended that all adult adoptees in England, Wales and Scotland should be entitled to a copy of their original birth certificates. (See below for a further discussion of the current British situation.)

The only reported Canadian research is a study by Dr. Sue Stephenson, cited in the Fifth Report of the Royal Commission on Family and Children's Law, Part VII, Adoption (March, 1975). She studied a small sample of reunions and recommended only further study at the time.

The Committee also asked for written briefs in response to the same questions found in the Introduction to this Report from the following institutions and groups: Browndale, Parent Finders (Toronto and Vancouver), Adopting Parents (London, Ont.), the Ontario Human Rights Commission, The Canadian Association of Social Workers, the Minnesota Children's Home, the provincial Directors of Child Welfare and the Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies. While some of the above could not respond due to the short amount of time allowed in the Committee's original mandate, the input received pointed toward an adoption or reunion registry for adults. An adult adoptee would register his interests for information sharing or contact and if the consent of the biological parents were on file, the wishes of both parties would be satisfied. There was no consensus

as to whether adoptive parental consent or involvement would be required, the minimum age for the adoptee or the specific design of the registry. Access to identifying information by biological parents was not favored, but it was felt that non-identifying information should be available to them. Most respondents favored access by adult adoptees to non-identifying information.

The Committee also contacted the Directors of Child Welfare in the states of Kansas and Alabama in the U.S. and the corresponding officials in England and Finland, as the laws pertaining to access to records are significantly different from the statutes in Ontario. In Kansas and Alabama, an adult adoptee (18 in Kansas, 19 in Alabama), upon request to the appropriate bureau of vital statistics, can obtain his original birth certificate. The information contained on the certificate is sufficient in some cases to lead to the identification of the biological parents. Both states also offer optional professional mediation services for the adult adoptee wishing agency assistance in contacting the biological parents. The mediator then attempts to locate the biological parents on behalf of the adoptee, which is often difficult since the available information is frequently incomplete or outdated. If the biological parents agree, a reunion is arranged. Adoptive parental consent is not required. Neither state has any systematic follow-up on the outcome of the reunions, but both report all parties to be generally pleased, with no backlash from adoptive or biological parents. The number of requests for a reunion have increased in recent years, with Kansas, for example, recording 60 requests in 1975.

In England, the Children Act 1975, Section 26, gives adopted persons aged 18 and over access to information contained in their birth certificate. A personal interview with a counsellor prior to the giving of this information is mandatory for persons adopted before the passing of the Act, i.e. 12 November 1975, but will not be required in the future.

11...

No mandatory mediation process is required in cases where the applicant is determined to seek a reunion. It is left to the discretion of the skilled counsellor to judge what course of action would be the most appropriate in these cases. The authorities in England have received some 250 enquiries from adoptees about applying for their birth record so far in 1976. In Scotland, where an adoptee can obtain his birth certificate at 17, the number of personal applications has ranged from 73 to 117 during 1971-75 with additional postal inquiries also reported (50 in the first months of 1975). It should be noted that not all adoptees seeking their birth certificates or further background information are necessarily intent on making personal contact. Some adoptees are satisfied with merely receiving the additional information and do not seek contact with their biological relatives.

The reply from Finland unfortunately was lacking in specificity, but the authorities state that there is no secrecy in the adoption procedure at any time.

Most other jurisdictions have laws restricting access by adoptees to their original birth certificates and/or any identifying information on file at adoption agencies. Many of the responses from other provincial child welfare departments recognize the needs of many adult adoptees, but also reaffirm the guarantee of the confidentiality to the biological and adoptive parents. Exceptions are sometimes made in cases where the biological parents' interest in a contact has been previously recorded. Adoptive parental consent is sometimes required. There is also a growing recognition in the other provinces of the need for possible changes in existing legislation, but only with respect to future adoptions. It is generally acknowledged that commitments to biological and adoptive parents in past adoptions must be honored.

The Committee also noted great interest from other provinces in Ontario's study of the issue. Many of the respondents to our questions have requested copies of our conclusions, as they are also attempting to seek a solution to this complex problem.

IV. CURRENT SITUATION IN ONTARIO

The present situation in Ontario does not differ greatly from the majority of jurisdictions in Canada and in other countries. As per Section 80(1), all papers used upon an application for an adoption order are sealed and cannot be opened except upon an order of the court or the Director of Child Welfare. The history of this clause is obscure, as there are no official records or newspaper accounts that describe the debates in the legislature at the time of its first appearance (The Adoption Act, 1927). It is reasonable to infer from an English Child Adoption Committee First Report on the establishment of a formal system of adoption (1925) that secrecy in adoption probably has its roots in a desire to protect the child from interference from the biological parents and to hide the often illegitimate circumstances of the child's origins. In view of the legal challenges to similar statutes in certain states, the Committee sought a legal opinion on disclosure of records in Ontario from Margaret Kohr, Solicitor, Legal Services Branch, Ministry of Community and Social Services. Mrs. Kohr states that there are no reported cases on point with respect to the disclosure of records to an adoptee. She also states that the general thrust of the Child Welfare Act seems to favour maintaining the anonymity of the parties involved.

It is apparent nonetheless that some social workers at certain Societies will make an inquiry of the biological relatives on behalf of an adult adoptee if, in the social worker's judgment, the need is sufficient to warrant such an approach. Other Societies require the adoptive parents' consent or involvement or will act only if a previous,

13...

unsolicited, similar request from the biological parent is on file at the Society. Still others have a fairly firm policy of no mediation on behalf of either the adult adoptee or the biological parents. Very few Societies or social workers are disposed to seeking out an adoptee on behalf of the biological parents but will share available non-identifying information with the biological parents on the status of the relinquished child. Most social workers will give non-identifying information to adult adoptees without adoptive parental consent, but the age (16, 18 or 21) and conditions (independence from the adoptive parents) vary considerably across the province and even within one Society.

There is also much concern expressed with the paucity of information available in some cases, particularly in private adoptions. Many times, a social worker may be quite willing to give non-identifying information to either an adult adoptee or his adoptive parents, but finds that the information is incomplete, outdated or possibly unreliable. This situation is regrettable and could be very tragic with respect to medical background information. Moreover, as previously mentioned, many adoptive parents are dissatisfied with the casual approach taken at some Societies to safeguarding this confidential material.

V. POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVES

In view of the variability of Society policy with respect to all these concerns and the increasing demands and publicity surrounding the issues, the Committee has explored in depth many alternatives in search of a uniform policy for Ontario to serve the best interests of all parties.

The options described below are divided into considerations of non-identifying and identifying information.

As a preface to this description, the Committee wishes to define identifying and non-identifying information.

Identifying information is to be considered any information that could lead directly to the identification of a member of the biological family. Names and addresses and other details, such as the specific job title of a biological parent, are examples of such information. Non-identifying information is to be considered all other pieces of information. This type of information is exemplified by the selected details of personal, social and medical history shown on the appended Adoptee's Background Information Form, discussed in Section VI below. It is quite difficult to derive a more precise distinction between these two kinds of information, given the variability of what might be identifying in individual situations. In some cases, the actual delineation between identifying and non-identifying information would be left to the Society's discretion. That decision, however, should be based solely on a consideration of the identifying or non-identifying nature of the particular piece of information under consideration and should not be based on a determination of the positive or negative nature of that information. The intention in giving non-identifying information is to serve the best interests of the adoptee in his quest to fill in the knowledge of his genealogical background. Adoption workers, other professionals and adoptive parents must make every effort to see the adoptee's questions as a normal desire to complete one's identity structure.

Furthermore, the Committee has chosen to define the alternatives with respect to the adoptee in terms of his adult or minor status. Although all contributors to our study of this issue were concerned with the rights of adult adoptees, there was no consensus on the proper chronological age or the method for determining an individual's maturity. In defining adult, the Committee has accepted the age of majority, which is 18 at this writing.

Let us now turn to the available alternatives (ages referred to below are ages of the adoptee):

A. Non-identifying information

- 1) Non-identifying information should be available to adoptive parents upon request:
 - a) At no time; or
 - b) At any time.

- 2) Non-identifying information should be available to adoptees upon request and without adoptive parental consent:
 - a) At no age; or
 - b) At any age; or
 - c) At the age of majority; or
 - d) At the age of majority, providing the adoptee has no contact with minor biological siblings still in an adoption home and/or is not financially dependent upon the adoptive parents.
- 3) Non-identifying information on the status and well-being of a relinquished child should be available to the biological parents upon request:
 - a) At no time; or
 - b) At any time.

B. Identifying information

- 1) Identifying information on the biological parent(s), beyond what is given at the time of adoption placement, should be available to the adoptive parents upon request:
 - a) At no time; or
 - b) At any time; or
 - c) With the previously recorded consent of the biological parent(s); or
 - d) Through a special mediator who will seek the consent of the biological parent(s); or
 - e) Under conditions (b) through (d) with the additional stipulation that the adoptive parents have sufficient documented psychological, emotional or physical need for that information.
- 2) Identifying information on the biological parent(s) should be available to the adoptee upon request and without adoptive parental consent:

- a) At no age; or
- b) At any age; or
- c) At the age of majority; or
- d) At the age of majority and only with the previously recorded consent of the biological parent(s); or
- e) At the age of majority and only through a special mediator who will seek the consent of the biological parent(s); or
- f) At the age of majority and under condition (d) or (e) above with the additional stipulation that the adoptee has no contact with minor biological siblings still in an adoption home and/or is not financially dependent upon his adoptive parents; or
- g) Under one of the above conditions (b) through (f) with the additional stipulation that the adoptee has sufficient documented psychological, emotional or physical need for that information.

3) Identifying information on the whereabouts of the relinquished child should be available to the biological parent(s) upon request and without adoptive parental consent:

- a) At no time; or
- b) At any time; or
- c) When the adoptee has attained his majority; or
- d) When the adoptee has attained his majority and only with the previously recorded consent of the adoptee; or
- e) When the adoptee has attained his majority and only through a special mediator who will seek the consent of the adoptee; or
- f) When the adoptee has attained his majority and under condition (b) through (e) above with the additional stipulation that the adoptee has no contact with minor biological siblings still in adoption home and/or is

not financially dependent upon his adoptive parents; or

- g) Under one of the above conditions (b) through (f) with the additional stipulation that the biological parent(s) has/have sufficient documented psychological, emotional or physical need for that information.

It has also been suggested that adoptive parents consent be required in many of the considerations above, particularly when the adoptee is under the age of majority.

The special mediation process for adults, referred to above, requires further elaboration. This process may take either a "passive" or an "active" form. In a passive mediation or "registry" system a mediator or other designated person would perform the service requested, given similar unsolicited requests by both parties. In an active mediation concept, a mediator would make discreet inquiries of one party (i.e., the biological parent) on behalf of another party (i.e., the adult adoptee).

A passive system would not breach the right to confidentiality since both parties have chosen freely to dispense with that protection. It would not protect the confidentiality of the adoptee's other biological parent, since contact with one parent could lead to contact with the other parent. A particular problem would arise where the adoptee, after contact with the biological mother, seeks contact with the putative father, who may deny paternity or be unaware of the existence of the adoptee. It should be noted that where it has never been admitted or established, paternity may only be alleged or impossible to prove.

The passive system would be limited in its assistance to adoptees whose biological parents have moved from Ontario, were unaware of the system or who would respond better to the approach of an active mediator on behalf of the adoptee. It would also not satisfy the adoptive parents who feel their consents would be necessary regardless of the age of the adoptee.

The active system, while it may be of greater assistance to the party in search, raises questions about the deleterious effect of the mere approach to the other party by a representative of the Child Welfare system. A concern has often been expressed to the Committee that as much harm may befall the party being approached as benefit gained by the party in search. Alternately, it has also been argued that the experiences in other jurisdictions with reunions and the available research do not support this fear.

VI. POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations are divided into the major areas considered by the Committee: non-identifying information; identifying information; clarification of section 80(1) of The Child Welfare Act; standardization of record storage procedures in Children's Aid Societies; and the development of uniform personal, social and medical history forms to be used in all adoptions. The definitions of identifying and non-identifying information and of the term adult, as described in Section V of this Report, shall apply below.

A. Non-identifying information

- 1) Non-identifying information should be available to adoptive parents upon request. Adoptive parents should be counselled to share this information with their adopted children at appropriate times, and in a spirit of honesty and openness.
- 2) Non-identifying information should be available to adult adoptees without adoptive parental consent. This information should be given in the same spirit of honesty and openness. Non-identifying information would be given subsequent to a certification by the social

worker that a discussion of the feasibility and desirability of adoptive parental involvement has taken place. An exception to the above is the case of the adult adoptee who has contact with a minor biological sibling still in an adoption home. Under these circumstances, the written consent of the minor sibling's adoptive parents would be required before release of non-identifying information to the adult adoptee. The adult adoptee should have the right of appeal to the Director of Child Welfare to dispense with that consent if it would be in the best interests of all parties.

Adoptive parental consent, confirmed by the Society social worker, would be necessary for the release of non-identifying information to adoptees under the age of majority. It is recognized that some adoptees under the age of majority have special needs that require access to non-identifying information without adoptive parental consent. This need may be due to the parent's inability or unwillingness to give the information. In this case, the minor adoptee may appeal to the Director of Child Welfare to dispense with adoptive parental consent if it can be established that this action would be in the best interest of the adoptee.

- 3) The most recent available non-identifying information regarding the status and well-being of relinquished children should be made available to biological parents upon request.

- 4) With regard to future adoptions, the same terms and conditions should apply as stated above, except that the adult adoptee would have access to all non-identifying information without regard for the presence of minor biological siblings in an adoption home. Future adoptive parents should be made aware of the adoptee's rights with regard to non-identifying information and should accept their special responsibilities with regard to the adoptee and any biological siblings. The actual information will be recorded in the future on the appended Adoptee's Background Information Form to be discussed in Section D below. Adoptive parents will be required to sign a statement that they will share the information with their child during the child's growing years.

B. Identifying information

It is recommended that unrestricted access to identifying information not be permitted. In view of the need expressed by some adoptees to know more about or meet biological family it is recommended that an "Adoption Registry" should be established for exchanging information or effecting contact between adult adoptees and biological family. Explicit safeguards and conditions in the operation of the Registry should be established.

1) Registry-basic concept

The Registry is a system whereby adult adoptees, adoptive parents and biological parents may register their wishes for personal contact or information giving.

The system would be centralized in the Child Welfare Branch to ensure maximum effectiveness and uniformity of approach. It would be widely publicized in Ontario and other areas. Application forms would be at Queen's Park and all Children's Aid Societies.

2) The Mediator and his role

The Registry would be administered by a special Mediator. The Mediator would be a professional person with a special understanding of adoption and the needs and rights of all members of the adoption triangle. This person would act after a definite match between two parties was made. The Mediator would then provide whatever service was requested by the parties. An exception is the case of the adult adoptee who has contact with a minor biological sibling in an adoption home. In this case, the sibling's adoptive parental consent or the decision of a special Adoption Panel (described below) would be required.

The Registry would be basically "passive" in design in the sense that the Mediator would act upon receipt of similar, unsolicited requests by both parties. The Mediator would be instructed to counsel both parties of the possible repercussions of a reunion. A particular caution should be emphasized where the adoptee, after contact with the biological mother, seeks contact with the putative father who may deny paternity or be unaware of the existence of the adoptee.

A more "active" role for the Mediator is recommended in those cases where an adult adoptee's need to know more information or establish personal contact is sufficient to warrant an approach to the biological parent by the Mediator without a previous registration of interest by the parent. The Mediator would exercise his discretion

as to whether to seek out the biological parent on behalf of the adult adoptee only after assessing a written recommendation from an appropriate professional attesting to the special needs of the adoptee. The adoptee may appeal the decision or actions of the Mediator to the Adoption Panel described below. The same terms and conditions above are also recommended in the case of the adoptive parents who are requesting an approach to the biological parents on behalf of their adopted child.

3) The Adoption Panel

There will be other exceptional circumstances where a further process is required. A special, three-member Adoption Panel should be created to handle these circumstances. The Panel would be composed of the Director of Child Welfare, or his appointee, and two other persons, appointed by the Minister. The Panel would function in three separate areas.

First, the Panel would be required to approve an active role for the Mediator to seek out another unregistered party in certain special cases. The Mediator will refer the applicant's request to the Panel which would review the situation, hear submissions from the applicant and decide whether the Mediator shall act on behalf of the applicant. Secondly, the Panel would have an appellate function described in letter (e) below. Finally, the Panel would have a special role with regard to the adult adoptee who has contact with minor biological siblings (see below).

The following persons shall have the right to apply to the Panel, provided that such application is supported by a written recommendation from an appropriate professional attesting to the special needs of the applicant:

- a) An adult adoptee who has contact with minor biological siblings and does not have the consent of the siblings adoptive parents and who wishes the Mediator to make contact with the biological parent(s) on his behalf;
 - b) An adoptee wishing the Mediator to make contact with a minor biological sibling in another adoption home. The sibling's adoptive parents would have the absolute right to refuse this contact by the Mediator with their child;
 - c) A minor adoptee wishing the Mediator to make contact with the biological parents, but who is opposed by his adoptive parents;
 - d) A biological parent or other biological relative wishing the Mediator to assist in further information sharing or effecting contact with a relinquished child who is now an adult. Precautions would be necessary to determine first if in fact the adult adoptee was aware of his own adoptive status. Where the Mediator is requested to make contact with an adult adoptee who has contact with minor biological siblings still in an adoption home, the adoptive parents of such siblings would have the absolute right to refuse this contact;
- (Much discussion occurred in the Committee as to whether the Mediator should seek out an adoptee on behalf of a biological parent under any circumstances. A vote of eleven in favor and one opposed was recorded on this subsection d . A dissenting opinion is appended to this Report.)

- e) An adult adoptee or adoptive parent,
refused by the Mediator or dissatisfied with
the results of the Mediator's efforts on his
behalf, who wishes further action.

The Panel would also be required to decide whether the Mediator could act in the case of a mutual registration of interest with the Registry by a biological parent and an adult adoptee who has contact with a minor biological sibling in an adoption home and who does not have the consent of adoptive parents. The written recommendation from an appropriate professional would not be required in this case, as both the biological parent and the adult adoptee have independently expressed their wishes through the Registry and are not requesting the Mediator to seek out another party.

4) Future Adoptions

With respect to future adoptions, the same system as described above would be employed. Biological parents and adoptive parents must be made aware at the time of adoption placement of the possibility of a desire for contact between the adoptee and his biological parents.

C. Clarification of Section 80(1) of The Child Welfare Act.

It is recommended that an amendment should be made in Section 80(1) of The Child Welfare Act so that it reads,

The papers filed with the court upon an application for an adoption order shall be sealed up and filed in the office of the court and shall not be open for inspection except upon an order of the court or the written direction of the Director.

The Committee's recommended amendment is underlined above.

It is further recommended that the Children's Aid Societies be instructed to inform adoptive parents at the time of adoption placement precisely which documents will be sealed in the office of the court and which documents will be retained at the Society or the Child Welfare Branch.

D. Standardization of record storage procedures.

It is recommended that a special study be made of record storage procedures and that necessary steps be taken to implement an appropriate system at the Children's Aid Societies.

E. New personal, social and medical history forms to be used in all adoptions.

It is recommended that the appended Adoptee's Background Information Form be used in all future agency and private adoptions. The Form was developed by the adoption social workers on the Committee in consultation with the Children's Aid Society of Metropolitan Toronto pediatrician, Dr. M. Hunter.

The Committee recommends that this non-identifying information be gathered from the biological family and be given to the adoptive parents at the time of placement. Adoptive parents should be counselled to share this information with their adopted child as he matures and in a spirit of honesty and openness.

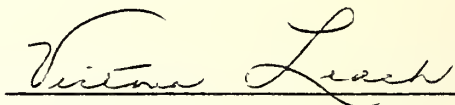
VI. SUMMARY

These recommendations, in the opinion of this Committee, are the best means to serve the interests of all members of the adoption triangle. Our concern for the rights of one party has always been

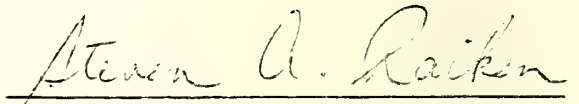
tempered by our equal concern for safeguarding the rights of the other parties involved.

The Committee also wishes to reaffirm the value of adoption as a viable and useful resource in the community. We feel that these recommendations will strengthen the institution of adoption by serving the needs and protecting the rights of all members of the adoption triangle.

Respectfully submitted, this 22nd day of June, 1976.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Victoria Leach", written over a horizontal line.

Victoria Leach, Chairman

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Steven A. Raiken", written over a horizontal line.

Steven A. Raiken, Secretary

Helen Allen

Helen Ball

Mira S. Blake

Nicholas Cannon

Valentin J. Cruz

Lee Ferrier

Greg P. Johnstone

Pat Richardson

Ann Lorraine Thiessen

Jan Thompson

VIII. ADDENDA

Appended are two additional documents. The first is a dissenting opinion by one Committee member, Nicholas Cannon, in regard to Section VI, Part B, subsections 3a, 3c, and 3d, concerning the power of the Adoption Panel to overrule the authority of an adoptive parent and concerning the right of a biological parent to apply to the Adoption Panel (see page 23).

The second document is the Adoptee's Background information Form, described in Section VI, Part E (see page 25).

DISSENTING OPINION IN REGARD TO:

"SECTION VI, PART 'B', SUB-SECTIONS 3a, 3c & 3d

I OBJECTIONS TO:-

I object and disagree that under any circumstances a "Mediation Panel" be given the power to overrule, and undermine the authority of adoptive parents i.e. that under any circumstances the "Mediation Panel" negate the principal of the original adoption order by their decision being opposite to the decision of the adoptive parents.

I object and disagree that under any circumstances a biological-parent, or biological-relatives, have the means to identifying information regarding a relinquished child i.e. that under any circumstances a biological-relative may use the mediator in an active role to seek out the relinquished child.

II REASONS FOR OBJECTIONS

For a biological-parent adoption is a final and irrevocable act. The biological-parent relinquishes and forever abandons all rights with regard to the child. The biological-parent agrees to this at the time the child is relinquished,

and is then given, by law, 21 days to reconsider the act. The child acquires new parents who, from that moment, become the child's source of physical, mental and emotional well-being. The biological-parents from that time, by their own choice, cease to be parents and become strangers.

A. LEGISLATION interprets the word "issue" to include adoptive children, the law, by analogy, therefore, establishes that the biological-parents have no rights.

The principal upon which the law of adoption is premised, (the same principal which constitutes the justification for the existence of the law, in its present state, in Ontario, with respect to children) is: the best interest (welfare) of the child. In a wider sense the stability of the family unit in our society. Our society recognizes that some children are cheated or deprived of their right to physical and emotional welfare i.e. a fair chance to live a normal life, and become useful members of the community.

The law of adoption, like the role of the C.A.S. in the community, represents an effort to correct the corrosive elements that frustrate this end. To jeopardize the stability and integrity of the adoptive home serves to undo the original purpose of adoption. It is accepted there are some exceptional instances in which it is desirable that an adult adoptee be given certain information about their biological-parents. In

all cases, however, the elementary principal governing the inception of adoption must be adhered to.

B.

The manner in which the balance of the committee recommend to deal with these three situations leaves their recommendations wide open for blatant abuse, and intentional misinterpretation i.e. Any person can obtain "a written recommendation from an appropriate professional attesting to the special needs of the applicant". The mediator and mediation panel would constantly be placed in a compromising position. They would be aware of abuse, but if they indicated their awareness, they would be insulting the opinion and discretion of the "professional". The financial cost of such abuse would be substantial, and would rapidly escalate as it was learned how easily the system could be abused.

C.

The committee was given 12 replies from Ontario Agencies in response to various questions.

- 1) Should adoptees have access to identifying information (Names and/or addresses of biological family?) At what age, and under what circumstances and conditions should such information be made available?

9 OUT OF 12 AGENCIES RECOMMENDED THAT EITHER
THE ADOPTIVE PARENTS CONSENT BE GIVEN OR THE
ADOPTEE WOULD HAVE TO BE AN ADULT.

(Rainy River, Huron County, York, Renfrew,

Oxford, Elgin, Durham, Stormont-Dundas,
Sudbury-Manitoulin).

1 Agency (Essex Catholic) recognized the adoptive parent's rights, and suggested the Supreme Court make any decision.

2 Agencies (Kawartha-Haliburton, Nipissing) discounted the rights of the adoptive parents.

ii) In regard to active mediation on behalf of the biological-parents.

11 OUT OF 12 AGENCIES DID NOT RECOMMEND THIS POLICY

7 Agencies (York, Nipissing, Kawartha-Haliburton, Elgin, Huron County, Oxford, Rainy River) did not recommend such a policy.

4 Agencies (Renfrew, Essex (Catholic), Stormont-Dundas, Sudbury-Manitoulin) recommended against giving identifying information.

1 Agency (Durham) recommended an 'Active' role.

The balance of the committee chose to ignore these views in preference for others. If the 12 agencies are representative of all agencies in Ontario, the Committee recommendations will cause resentment, and an unwillingness by the agencies to accept the recommendations as they contradict the large majority opinion. Obviously, for any Provincial Policy to succeed, that is not backed by legislation, it would be forced to have the approval

and acceptance by the agencies, and their personnel, who will have to publicize and implement the conception of the idea at the grass-root level. Therefore, the inclusion of these committee recommendations in a Provincial Policy will place in severe jeopardy the total policy.

D. FIVE OBSERVATIONS OBTAINED IN THE COMMITTEE'S REPORT HELP CONFIRM MY OBJECTIONS AND DISAGREEMENT WITH THE CLAUSES PREVIOUSLY MENTIONED.

All the below sentences should be read in their complete context.

1. Page 4 - Lines 19, 20 and 21

"Both adoptees and adoptive parents were not favourably disposed to allowing access to identifying information for biological-parents or minor adoptees"

2. Page 10 - Lines 3 and 4

"Access to identifying information by biological parents was not favoured"
(institutions and groups)

3. Page 11 - last 3 lines on page

"It is generally acknowledged that commitments to biological and adoptive parents in past adoptions must be honoured" (other Canadian Provinces)

4. Page 12 - Section 4 - lines 19, 20 and 21

"the general thrust of the Child Welfare Act seems to favour maintaining the anonymity of the parties involved". (legal opinion)

5. Page 13 - Line 4 and 5

"Very few societies or social workers are disposed to seeking out an adoptee on behalf of the biological parents"

E. Such policies as suggested by the balance of the committee are not in the best interest of our Province. Once such policies are implemented, in the interest of an infinitesimal minority, the policies would be almost impossible to control without cries of discrimination and bias. The policies would also disrupt and disturb, a far greater number of lives than they could ever benefit.

The policies would be totally unacceptable to the vast majority of society. If the majority of the Committee's recommendations are accepted and made Provincial Policy, many members of society will find it hard to accept such "reformed" views, but the value to society as a whole would outweigh their concern. The inclusion of these particular policies in any Provincial Policy, would undermine and reject the credibility of the total Provincial Policy, and would precipitate a confrontation. There would also be a tremendous backlash to

the total Provincial Policy. Concerned persons would use every emotional, political, financial and any other source available to them to have the total Provincial Policy retracted.

III APPEAL TO EXCLUDE

Statement by James Taylor, Minister of Community and Social Services, made on Wednesday, November 19th 1975.

"I don't think you can create a system of two types of families; one playing a baby-sitting role, and another the natural parents. I think the difference should be eliminated. Anything we can do in this regard should be done".

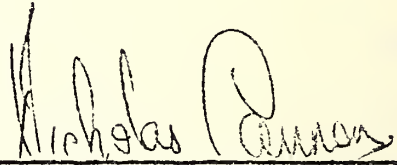
It is agreed that a system can not have two types of families, and by the same principal, a system can not have two types of parents "with rights".

I appeal that these three committee recommendations are not included in any part of a Provincial Policy. If they are included it will be a marked departure from the standards by which reasonable members of our society conduct their lives.

In a complicated, complex and mercuric society such as ours, it is difficult, if not impossible, to formulate rules that are appropriate to all the people, all of the time. There will always be exceptions, the exceptions that create inequities, but the law can not be compromised by the exceptions. Proper law and authority is based on sound moral

principals for the benefit of society as a whole. To do otherwise would be to completely neutralize the law, and its authority in its role of establishing order in our society.

To create machinery to deal with exceptional cases is to open the door to complete adulteration of the whole purpose for which adoption, and adoption law, was intended in the first place.



Nicholas Cannon.

This dissenting report was written by Nicholas Cannon, but represents the view of a large group of parents centered in the Niagara Peninsula.

ADOPTEE'S BACKGROUND INFORMATION

It is our understanding that, as adoptive parents, we are expected to share this information with our child,, during his/her growing years. We agree that the Agency has the right to disclose this information to our son/daughter at the age of majority or earlier if it is found by the Director of Child Welfare to be in the best interest of the child. The information will not be shared with this child prior to the age of majority without consultation with us.

.....
(Signature of Adoptive Mother)

.....
(Signature of Adoptive Father)

WITNESS: _____

DATE: _____

T H E C H I L D

ORIGINAL GIVEN NAMES:

DATE OF BIRTH:

PLACE OF BIRTH:

NAME OF HOSPITAL:

RELIGION:

BAPTISM OR OTHER SIGNIFICANT
RELIGIOUS CEREMONY: _____

☐

NO

☐

YES

DATE:

DATE OF DISCHARGE FROM HOSPITAL:

LIFE EXPERIENCES OF CHILD PRIOR TO ADMISSION:

DATE OF INITIAL ADMISSION INTO CARE OF THE CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY:

REASON FOR INITIAL ADMISSION:

ADMITTED FROM: ☐ Biological Home ☐ Hospital ☐ Other

DATE OF CROWN WARDSHIP: (if applicable)

AND/OR DATE OF CONSENT TO ADOPTION: (if applicable)

EXPERIENCE IN CARE: (Include number and dates of placement, reasons for moves; significant people in the child's life)

CHILD'S DEVELOPMENT WHILE IN CARE:

CHILD'S SIBLINGS (including half-siblings)

(State sex, age, nature of employment, education, health, interests, talents.
Please state whether adopted, in agency care, in biological home, with
relatives or elsewhere, excluding names where they have had no contact
with child)

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

DATE OF ADOPTION PLACEMENT AND DESCRIPTION OF THE CHILD:

T H E B I O L O G I C A L M O T H E R

HER AGE AT TIME OF CHILD'S BIRTH:

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION AND PERSONALITY:

MARITAL STATUS:

RACE:

ETHNIC ORIGIN:

COUNTRY OF BIRTH:

EDUCATION:

NATURE OF EMPLOYMENT OR OCCUPATION:

INTERESTS:

RELIGION:

THE SOURCE OF THE ABOVE INFORMATION IS:

☐

The Biological Mother

☐

The Biological Father

☐

Other
(Specify)

M A T E R N A L F A M I L Y

THE MATERNAL GRANDFATHER:

AGE AT TIME OF CHILD'S BIRTH:

RACE:

ETHNIC ORIGIN:

COUNTRY OF BIRTH:

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION AND PERSONALITY:

EDUCATION:

NATURE OF EMPLOYMENT: (if retired, please state nature of former employment)

HEALTH:

INTERESTS:

RELIGION:

RELATIONSHIP WITH THE CHILD'S MOTHER:

HER DESCRIPTION AND IMPRESSION OF HER FATHER:

IS HE AWARE OF THE CHILD'S BIRTH?

THE MATERNAL GRANDMOTHER:

AT THE TIME OF CHILD'S BIRTH:

RACE:

ETHNIC ORIGIN:

COUNTRY OF BIRTH:

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION AND PERSONALITY:

EDUCATION:

NATURE OF EMPLOYMENT: (if retired, please state nature of former employment)

HEALTH:

INTERESTS:

RELIGION:

RELATIONSHIP WITH THE CHILD'S MOTHER:

HER DESCRIPTION AND IMPRESSION OF HER MOTHER:

IS SHE AWARE OF THE CHILD'S BIRTH?

BIOLOGICAL MOTHER'S SIBLINGS: (State sex, age, education, nature of employment, health, interests, excluding names)

ARE THE SIBLINGS AWARE OF THE CHILD'S BIRTH?

GENERAL FAMILY PHYSICAL CHARACTERSTICS:

THE SOURCE OF THE ABOVE INFORMATION IS:

☐

The Biological Mother

☐

The Biological Father

☐

Other
(specify)

T H E B I O L O G I C A L F A T H E R

Alleged

☐

Source of Information:

Admitted by father

☐

Established in Court

☐

HIS AGE AT TIME OF CHILD'S BIRTH

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION AND PERSONALITY:

MARITAL STATUS:

RACE:

ETHNIC ORIGIN:

COUNTRY OF BIRTH:

EDUCATION:

EMPLOYMENT OR OCCUPATION:

INTERESTS:

RELIGION:

IS HE AWARE OF THE CHILD'S BIRTH?

THE SOURCE OF THE ABOVE INFORMATION IS:

☐

The Biological Mother

☐

The Biological Father

☐

Other
(speci

P A T E R N A L F A M I L Y

THE PATERNAL GRANDFATHER:

AGE AT TIME OF CHILD'S BIRTH:

RACE:

ETHNIC ORIGIN:

COUNTRY OF BIRTH:

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION AND PERSONALITY:

EDUCATION:

EMPLOYMENT:(if retired, please state former occupation)

HEALTH:

INTERESTS:

RELIGION:

RELATIONSHIP WITH THE CHILD'S FATHER:

HIS DESCRIPTION AND IMPRESSION OF HIS FATHER:

IS HE AWARE OF THE CHILD'S BIRTH?

THE PATERNAL GRANDMOTHER:

AGE AT TIME OF CHILD'S BIRTH:

RACE:

ETHNIC ORIGIN:

COUNTRY OF BIRTH:

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION AND PERSONALITY:

EDUCATION:

EMPLOYMENT: (if retired, please state former occupation)

HEALTH:

INTERESTS:

RELIGION:

RELATIONSHIP WITH THE CHILD'S FATHER:

HIS DESCRIPTION AND IMPRESSION OF HIS MOTHER:

IS SHE AWARE OF THE CHILD'S BIRTH?

BIOLOGICAL FATHER'S SIBLINGS: (State sex, age, education, employment,
health, interests)

ARE THE SIBLINGS AWARE OF THE CHILD'S BIRTH?

GENERAL FAMILY PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

THE SOURCE OF THE ABOVE INFORMATION IS:

☐

The Biological Mother

☐

The Biological Father

☐

Other
(specify)

SOCIAL SITUATION: (Include duration and nature of the relationship between biological parents; reasons why child came into care; reasons why he/she became available for adoption; and, the significance of this decision to the biological parents.

THE SOURCE OF THE ABOVE INFORMATION IS:

☐

The Biological Mother

☐

The Biological Father

☐

Other
(specify)

ADOPTEE'S MEDICAL HISTORY

(for details use reverse of this form)

DATE OF BIRTH:

<u>PRENATAL FACTORS:</u>	Infectious disease	Medication
	Bleeding	Street Drugs
	High blood pressure	Alcohol
	Kidney trouble	Veneral Disease
	Father's Blood type	Mother's Blood type

<u>BIRTH HISTORY:</u>	Birth Weight	Length
	Length of Labour	Type of Delivery
	Term	Complications
	Hour of birth	Condition of child at birth
	Weight at discharge	Blood type
	from hospital	

DEVELOPMENTAL HISTORY:

1st Teeth	Talked
Sat alone	Bowel trained
Walked alone	Bladder trained
Other	

FEEDING HISTORY:

PRESENT DIET:

<u>WEIGHT GAINS:</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>WEIGHT</u>	<u>HEIGHT</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>WEIGHT</u>	<u>HEIGHT</u>
----------------------	-------------	---------------	---------------	-------------	---------------	---------------

HEALTH HISTORY: (Illness, allergies, accidents, operations):

HOSPITALIZATIONS: (note dates and diagnoses):

DATE OF LAST DENTAL EXAMINATION:

IMMUNIZATION:

	<u>Dates</u>		
	1)	2)	3)
D.P.T. & P.			
Last Booster Toxoid			
M.M.R.			
Vaccination			

MEDICAL TESTS:

	<u>Date</u>	<u>Results</u>
Routine Wasserman		
Tuberculin Test		
Urinalysis Test		
P.K.U.		
Other Tests		

LAST PHYSICAL EXAMINATION:

	<u>Date</u>	
Height		Heart -- Size
Weight		Position
		Sounds
General Condition		Chest
Fontanelle		Lungs
Head		Abdomen
Skin		Spleen
Ears		Liver
Eyes		Spine
Teeth & Occlusion		Posture
Nose		Genitals
Tonsils		Extremities
Adenoids		Neurological
Glands		Endocrine

FINDINGS:

Pediatrician

BACKGROUND HEALTH INFORMATION

BIOLOGICAL MOTHER and HER FAMILY

HEALTH FACTOR	MOTHER	RELATIVE	STATE RELATIONSHIP	DETAILS (use reverse if necessary)
Allergies (e.g. asthma,eczema)				
Migraine headaches				
Diabetes				
Epilepsy - seizures				
Tuberculosis				
Mental retardation				
Tumour or cancer				
Blood diseases				
Birth defects				
Mental illness				
Kidney trouble				
High blood pressure				
Muscular dystrophy				
Nervous disease				
Eye problems				
Hearing problems				
Any other hereditary disease				

BIOLOGICAL FATHER and HIS FAMILY

HEALTH FACTOR	FATHER	RELATIVE	STATE RELATIONSHIP	DETAILS (use reverse if necessary)
Allergies (e g. asthma, eczema)				
Migraine headaches				
Diabetes				
Epilepsy - seizures				
Tuberculosis				
Mental retardation				
Tumour or cancer				
Blood diseases				
Birth defects				
Mental illness				
Kidney trouble				
High Blood pressure				
Muscular dystrophy				
Nervous disease				
Eye problems				
Hearing problems				
Any other hereditary disease				

